

From the Desk of...
Mary Ward-Donagan

Dear Fellow Priests for Life Family Member,

You don't know me but I am Mary Ward-Donagan, the sister of the late John Cardinal O'Connor.

I am writing you this short note to encourage you to read Father Pavone's letter with an open mind and an open heart.

As I think you know, my brother was – like you – a fierce champion of the unborn. He preached the Gospel of Life with a fire and passion that I always found inspirational. He did so, I'm sure, because he felt that the only way the people of God would rise up and demand an end to the injustice of abortion would be if their bishops and priests led them to do so.

That's why he released Father Frank to work full-time on the training of priests and deacons to be ardent preachers of the Gospel of Life and to set people's hearts on fire to work for an end to abortion. I know the Cardinal was very proud of Fr. Frank and gratified by the work of Priests for Life.

So when Father Frank came to me some time ago to discuss his vision for just such clergy pro-life training to occur, I was extremely thankful to God. And as we talked, Father told me he wanted to name the program after my brother.

My heart was filled to overflowing when I heard this. I can think of no better tribute my brother would like than to have his name attached to the very work he longed to achieve while here on earth.

And so I ask you to please give Father Frank your full and undivided attention for the next few minutes. Picture in your own mind the vision he will lay out for you. That vision is a nation filled with priests who not only preach the Gospel of Life, but live it in their daily lives; to the point where they are able to lead the People of Life to victory over abortion.

Together, let us work to make every diocese in the country an ABORTION-FREE DIOCESE.

And from there, to make our beloved United States an ABORTION-FREE NATION!

Wouldn't that be a tremendous achievement? We'd be doing so much good, not merely for ourselves and our unborn brothers and sisters, but for all those who will come after us. That's because, as Father Frank reminds us, abortion corrupts our entire society.

Thank you for taking the time to read my note. And I look forward to working with you to make The John Cardinal O'Connor Institute a powerful tool for good in America. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Mary